

January 15, 2011

Rep. Don Roberts, Chair and Committee Member
Joint appropriations Sub-Committee on Health and Human Services

RE: Cuts in the Montana Medicaid Budget

Dear Representative Roberts,

My name is Fran Hallberg. I am a disabled DAC child and have been blind for 34 years. These programs are something that make it so I can live independently and be taken care of at less cost than in a care facility. My needs are special to where I need certain people that can help me with running errands, and doing things that the State does not include in their program such as household thing you can't get at a grocery store (like certain personal wear to what others would shop for other than groceries).

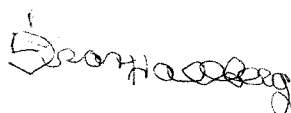
Also these programs help with cleaning, with me being non-sighted that ensures things are cleaned properly when I am not able to do them all by myself. My Waiver Manager, Amy Anderson, has been SO helpful to help me find any kind of resource to help with making phone calls and contacts that are hard for me to track down who I need to speak with to keep the paperwork straight and be sure the services I need I am getting.

This program is something that is VERY important to a lot of people that are able to live alone and just need help doing things that I need to make it more comfortable at home and have what I need. And sometimes it is good to be able to get away from the everyday hustle and bustle and do something that I enjoy doing because I am not able to do those things by myself.

Why should I be denied any more quality of life than someone who is not disabled? These cuts not only take a chunk out of the heart of the programs that benefit many of us in the silent minority just trying to survive each day and avoid group home living situation – but it takes away jobs from so many who are barely making it as it is.

Thank you so very much for taking the time to listen to me. I appreciate it very much. If you would like to contact me to discuss this topic further, feel free to call me at my home at: (406) 227-5226.

Sincerely,



Fran Hallberg
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